

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
DODE-00 H-01 NSC-05 OMB-01 IO-13 /080 W
-----075293 131930Z /44

R 131234Z SEP 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5823
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

S E C R E T NATO 08723

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, PFOR, IT
SUBJECT: ALLIANCE STUDY OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS: ITALIAN
BACKGROUND CONTRIBUTIONS

REF: NATO 8539 (NOTAL)

1. ITALIAN REP TOLD SPC ON SEPTEMBER 6 (REFTEL) THAT HE
WOULD CIRCULATE TWO PAPERS, ONE ON INTERNAL YUGOSLAV
POLITICS, AND THE OTHER ON AUSTRIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS, AS
BACKGROUND CONTRIBUTIONS TO SUPPLEMENT DESIGNATED TOPICS
FOR EAST-WEST STUDY. HIS REMARKS PROVOKED NETHERLANDS
RESERVATIONS ON COVERING YUGOSLAV INTERNAL DEVELOPMENTS
IN THE STUDY (PARA 4 REFTEL). TO DATE, ITALIAN DELE-
GATION HAS CIRCULATED ONLY PAPER ON AUSTRIA (TEXT BELOW).

2. BEGIN TEXT:
RELATIONS BETWEEN AUSTRIA AND THE SOVIET UNION

- VIENNA GOVERNMENT HAS ALWAYS ATTACHED TOP PRIORITY
INTEREST TO ITS RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION.
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- THEIR COURSE, IN FACT, FROM THE 1955 SIGNATURE OF THE
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STATE TREATY HITHERTO HAS UNDOUBTEDLY CONSTITUTED AN
ELEMENT CONDITIONING THE BALLHAUS FOREIGN POLICY AIMED AT
CONFERRING TO THE COUNTRY THE DELICATE ROLE OF "TRAIT
D'UNION" BETWEEN EAST AND WEST THAT IS INTERNATIONALLY
SUITABLE TO ITS STATUS OF NEUTRALITY.

- THERE HAVE BEEN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN MOSCOW AND VIENNA

ON HOW TO INTERPRET THE NEUTRALITY STATUS, AS FOR INSTANCE IN THE STAGE PRECEDING AUSTRIA'S JOINING OF THE EEC; THE RESTRICTIVE ATTITUDE BY THE KREMLIN HAS INCREASED THE DISAGREEMENTS THAT STILL EXIST BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES, DESPITE SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS MADE IN COOPERATING IN VARIOUS FIELDS.

- VIENNA GOVERNMENT, ESPECIALLY UNDER KREISKY'S GUIDANCE, CONTINUED TO GIVE NEUTRALITY A DEFINITELY DYNAMIC INTERPRETATION, ONE THAT, WITHOUT HURTING TOO MUCH MOSCOW'S INTERESTS, HAS FUNDAMENTALLY TURNED INTO A STRENGTHENING OF TIES BETWEEN AUSTRIA ON ONE SIDE AND DEMOCRATIC EUROPE AND THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY ON THE OTHER. THE USSR ON ITS PART NEVER FAILED TO EXERCISE CONTROL OVER THE RESPECT ON THE AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT'S PART OF THE COMMITMENTS STEMMING FROM THE STATE TREATY, AS DEMONSTRATED BY MOSCOW'S POSTURE ON THE RESTRUCTURING OF THE AUSTRIAN ARMED FORCES, RECENTLY DISCUSSED IN VIENNA'S PARLIAMENT. THESE ELEMENTS ARE THE PROOF OF A MUTUAL SUBSTANTIVE TRUST (SIC) THAT IS MANIFESTED ON THE ONE HAND IN THE ACTIVE ANTI-COMMUNISM OF THE AUSTRIAN RULING CLASS (STEMMING ALSO FROM DOMESTIC POLICY CONSIDERATIONS) AND ON THE OTHER IN THE ATTITUDE OF DEEP RESERVATION WITH WHICH MOSCOW REGARDS VIENNA'S INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITY, ITS RELATIONSHIP WITH BONN AND THE MOST RECENT STANCES BY THE AUSTRIAN LEADERS OVER EURO-COMMUNISM AND DISSENT.

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- THE PROFITABLE ECONOMIC, SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RELATIONS NOTWITHSTANDING, POLITICAL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE THEREFORE SUBJECTED TO UP AND DOWNS ACCORDING TO A DYNAMICS THAT WHILE STEMMING FROM THE ABOVE MENTIONED SUBSTANTIVE MOTIVES IS INTIMATELY LINKED TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE DETENTE PROCESS. BENNETT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decapton Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977NATO08723
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: n/a
Format: TEL
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770967/aaaacemb.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Message ID: 48e5e446-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 NATO 8539 (NOTAL)
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1284966
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLIANCE STUDY OF EAST-WEST RELATIONS: ITALIAN BACKGROUND CONTRIBUTIONS
TAGS: IT, NATO
To: SECSTATE WASHDC ROME MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/48e5e446-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009